

**Name: Karen J. Bump**

**Attribute this submission to: Karen J. Bump**

**Organization (if applicable): No organization**

**Title of Hearing: Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment**

I am an award-winning human services professional who enjoys helping people, communities, and agencies expand their capacity to the fullest. It has been my calling for most of my life. I am ABD having completed my doctoral dissertation though I ran out of money before I could do my re-writes. I did all of this because I wanted to learn as much as I could to be the best I could be as a community development professional. My graduate education was primarily funded by student loans and I want to pay those student loans. However, I was laid off 2 years ago when the economy went bad. Since then I have been applying for positions of all kinds...kitchen work, janitorial, office work...it doesn't matter as long as I don't have to feel like a freeloader. In the past 2 years I have lost my car and almost had my mobile home foreclosed on. In a rural area where I live with no public transportation there is very little hope of working, so I have submitted resumes all over the country. Thanks to the program that allowed for a re-packaging of my home loan (I have lived here 20 years) my home was saved by lowering the payments. The payments and home insurance were made using my unemployment, now that the unemployment has ended, I don't know how I will keep paying the mortgage. I am 58 years old and my husband of 36 years is 72. His disability insurance pays the bills but not the mortgage. I never in my life thought things would end up like this. I want to work but nobody will hire me. I have even tried to be a VISTA volunteer and no one has

picked me. I am at my wit's end. I send out 10-20 resumes a week. I have revised my resume several times using tips from employment agencies. I have a resume for doing kitchen work, office work, and then my professional one. I know there are people in the country with children who are having an even more difficult time of it and I make a daily list of things to be grateful for. Still, it seems to me that given the great numbers of unemployed, it would make sense to extend a Tier 5 until the economy gets better. Or, even better, create jobs that could help America through these hard times. I would work just for living expenses. At this point, it is hard to believe that I was chosen as Executive Director of the year for the State of Arizona by my peers. Please try and think of ways to take advantage of the skills and knowledge that those of us who are unemployed have. We can help get through this if you let us. Thank you for reading my story. ###